

CRPF in the fight against COVID -19

The spread of COVID-19 is an unforeseen challenge which the world has a little experience to fight with. The global pandemic is posing threats on several fronts. Till the time a reliable solution or treatment is made available, the only way to save the huge population of the country from viral infections and its fatal consequences, is precautions in the form of social distancing and observing personal norms.

CRPF is the largest Central Armed Police of the country with a strength of more than 3 lakh personnel deployed throughout the country especially in the troubled and conflict affected areas. Though the force specialises in warfare, counter-insurgency and maintaining law & order, the force has a history of meticulously adapting to meet the new and unforeseen challenges. Its large strength, countrywide presence, and a committed and disciplined workforce ready to take up new roles to serve the country, helps it to reach out to the people more effectively.

The force has been actively deployed to maintain the law and order and enforce the lockdown in tandem with local administration in various parts of the country. In addition, the humane work by the force to reach out to the economically weaker section of the society, which is most vulnerable to the pandemic and financial hardship, is drawing much appreciation and accolades from all sections of the society. It is indeed praiseworthy that in many instances the CRPF personnel have contributed generously from their salary voluntarily to create funds which are being used to help the needy. While the CRPF personnel are carrying out the humanitarian works in the places of their deployment, back home their families are carrying out similar work in several CRPF Group Centres via the CRPF Family Welfare association.

Duty in the lockdown

Owing to its pan-India presence, CRPF is actively engaged in enforcing the lockdown in all parts of the country. At various locations, the force personnel are performing their duties in the critical hotspots undaunted by the risks to their personal safety. The personnel are tirelessly engaged in fighting the COVID-19 while taking all necessary precautions. With spectacular synergy, the force personnel

have yet again shown their adaptability at working with different departments for a common national good.

CRPF Aahaar for You

The institutions of the CRPF are distributing food packets and dry ration in their area of responsibility to cater to the needy sections of society particularly the daily workers, villagers, migrants from one city to another, senior citizens, divyang etc. This distribution has been carried out in all the states where CRPF is present ranging from Delhi where the Force has its headquarters, to the most remote and troubled regions of Dantewada, Chhattisgarh. In one such distribution drive 1 lakh kg rice was distributed by 211 Battalion CRPF in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Distribution of protective items and gears

To help the corona warriors and locals in this fight against Coronavirus, CRPF institutions have been distributing sanitizers, soaps, sanitizer pumps, masks, gloves etc. On several occasions the CRPF personnel have sanitized the marked areas to avert the threat of COVID-19 spread among the civilian population.

Manufacturing of PPE kits, masks, sanitisers etc

Many institutions in CRPF have started making PPE kits, masks, and even hand sanitizers to be used by the health professionals and other Corona warriors. Joining the initiative, the CRPF Family Welfare association is also manufacturing masks and sanitisers to create and distribute stock of these necessary articles. CRPF Northern Sector Headquarters in Delhi is already on its way to produce about 4000 PPE kits and 3 lakh 3 surgical 3 ply masks with a quality that matches the established industry standards.

The Madadgaar Initiative

Previously focused to cater to the needs of residents of J&K, the Madadgaar broadened its reach and opened a nationwide helpline to help the citizens of India.

Be it any issue relating to food, health care, medical emergency, administrative help or a crisis, the citizens can reach Madadgaar on their helpline. To resolve the issues, the Madadgaar takes help of the nearest CRPF unit deployed in the area where the help has been sought or liaisons with the civil authorities to help the citizens in need. Since, the nationwide helpline was opened the Madadgaar has helped citizens in medical cases in more than 1100 cases and has facilitated the distribution of more than 15000 food packets. Furthermore, the Madadgaar has been relentlessly providing information to the citizens through their various platforms. It has reached out the families of the CAPF personnel and rendered yeomen's service to the citizens in need. From helping deliver medicines in remote area of Nandurbar, Maharashtra for a mentally challenged girl to rendering medical help in Sitamarhi, Bihar to providing assistance to a man getting married in Moradabad, Madadgaar has reached out to all.

The CRPF Telemedicine Service was launched in the wake of the COVID crisis. This service links the family in need of medical advice to the CRPF medical officer who counsels online. The service has been used by the separated families who faced a situation due to the lockdown.

Awareness

CRPF is actively spreading awareness required to fight Coronavirus by diverse means available. To stress upon the importance of social distancing, the CRPF band has made several videos in the form of engaging songs underlining the importance of staying at home, washing hands, social distancing etc. these videos were very well received on the three social media platforms of CRPF viz. Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Stressing the importance of correct way to wash hands, videos made with the help of a dye was widely appreciated. In places where the force personnel are deployed on active duty, they spread awareness by means of lectures, loudspeakers etc.

To engage the younger generation and utilize their creativity, a poster making contest themed at the battle against COVID-19 was launched for school children across the country with monetary reward as encouragement. The challenge received an overwhelming response in the form of informative posters marked with creativity

and concern. The posters are being liked and shared on social media with great enthusiasm.

CRPF Family welfare Association

While the personnel have dedicated themselves to the service of the nation and its people, the families residing in more than 40 Group Centres spread across the country are consistently devoting themselves to do their bit by directing their skills and workforce under the CRPF Welfare Association-an association of the families of the CRPF personnel. The association has been distributing food packets, manufacturing masks, and hand sanitizers which is then distributed among the needy and deprived section of the society. In one such event the association in Delhi contributed a total of one lakh surgical 3-Ply masks to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Notably, the masks were manufactured in-house at the Northern sector of CRPF and met the industry standards. The regional CWA, GC CRPF Bangalore has started manufacturing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits and face masks in association with National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru. The equipment will protect the medical staff treating COVID-19 patients.

Helping people in distress

The force is making unstinted efforts to render all possible help to people in distress. People have shown confidence in calling CRPF during the time of emergency. On several such occasions the force personnel went beyond the call of duty to aid the fellow citizens. On numerous occasions, the bravehearts of CRPF donated blood when it was most urgently and immediately required. The CRPF personnel have responded in case of blood needed for Thalassemia patients and those in need of the rare blood groups. In one of the many noteworthy efforts, CRPF worked in close coordination in four states and a union territory in a life-saving operation to airlift an ailing 50-year-old man from Rajouri to Jammu and then transferred him to PGIMER Chandigarh while simultaneously tracing his son who was cycling from Mumbai to reach his father. Answering another call for help, the CRPF doctor removed 30 metallic staples overdue from femur operation of 79 year old Mrs Eapen in Patna. Mrs Eapen had requested CRPF for help, as she was unable to go out due to her frail health and the nationwide lockdown. Her U.S based sons were unable to

reach her amidst the unprecedented crisis. Reacting to the call of a distressed father of a five-day old baby who needed an urgent heart operation, the CRPF arranged for the same.

Personal Capacity

All the CRPF personnel have made a humble contribution of their one-day salary to the PM Cares Fund. Many CRPF personnel on leave who were not able to join their duty amid the lockdown have conducted welfare activities for their needy in their locality.